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RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

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The Rural Electrification Addingstration today allotted \$30,000 to the West Florida Cooperative Association of Marianna, to construct a generating plant for the farmer members to produce their own electricity.

Extended negotiations have been carried on by the project and REA with the Gulf Power Company, a Commonwealth and Southern Corporation subsidiary, in an effort to buy energy at whole-sale for the project. The company, however, failed to make a satisfactory rate. The power company offered to serve the project at a rate which would average about 1.55 cents per kilowatt-hour wholesale when the project reached its full development.

This is far out of line with rates quoted for REAfinanced cooperatives in other sections of the country; most quotations
recently have been at an average rate of 1 to 1.2 cents. A large number
of projects in Georgia, also served by a Commonwealth and Southern
subsidiary, have contracted for power at rates in that range.

The cooperative plans to build some 300 miles of line to make service available to 1,000 to 1,500 rural customers. REA has previously allotted \$100,000 to permit construction of the project to start.

